

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 141754Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8665

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 5254

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN BE KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT TO INVEST IN WALLONIA?

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN BUSY LAST FEW DAYS WITH REPORTS OF AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN KUWAIT FINANCIAL CIRCLES AND BELGIAN STATE SECRETARY FOR WALLOON REGIONAL ECONOMY DEFRAIGNE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS A KUWAIT REPRESENTATIVE RECENTLY VISITED BELGIUM TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE INVESTMENT IN THE WALLOON PART OF BELGIUM. DEFRAIGNE MEANWHILE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A BRIEF TRIP TO KUWAIT, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS THE SAME SUBJECT.

2. BELGIAN FONAFFAIRS MINISTRY OFFICIALS THREW UP HANDS IN MIXED IRRITATION AND AMUSEMENT WHEN SUBJECT MENTIONED BY EMBOFFS. ONE POINTED OUT THAT DEFRAIGNE HAS NO AUTHORITY TO SIGN ANY INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT WHILE ANOTHER COMMENTED THAT IT APPEARED THAT DEFRAIGNE WAS MERELY SEARCHING FOR NEW INVESTMENT IN A GENERAL SENSE, NOT NECESSARILY AS PART OF A PROJECT INVOLVING THE GOB (AS IN THE PROPOSED PETROLEUM REFINERY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IRANIAN NATIONAL OIL COMPANY).

3. DEFRAIGNE'S DABBING IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS LATEST OF SERIES OF DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE EXCITED COMMENT. PRIME

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MINISTER LEBURTON HAS RECENTLY BEEN ON "PRIVATE" TRIPS

TO ZAIRE AND MALTA, AND IS OFF TO IRAN ON SEPTEMBER 20.
STATE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PETRY HAS ALSO BEEN
VOCAL ON RECENT FOREIGN TRIPS AND IN COMPANY WITH LABOR
MINISTER GLINNE WAS OUTSPOKEN AND CRITICAL OF CHILEAN
DEVELOPMENTS. MFA IS NATURALLY DISPLEASED WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ACTIVITIES OF DIVERSE GOB PERSONALITIES: MINISTRY SOURCE,
IN FACT, SAYS FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE TRIED TO BLOCK DEFRAIGNE
TRIP WITH WRITTEN PROTEST TO LEBURTON BUT DID NOT ACT IN
TIME. STRAUZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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